ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An ad hoc network includes a set of nodes. Each of the nodes include a routing protocol currently used by the node and may include one or more routing protocols that are available for use by the node. A source node in the network attempting to transmit a message to a destination node in the network may need to establish a common routing protocol between nodes in the nodes network. The source node can transmit a request for routing protocol information to a limited number of nodes in the network. The limited number of nodes may include nodes in zone with a zone radius length determined by a predetermined number of hops from the source node. The source node receives the routing protocol information from the limited number of nodes and selects a common routing protocol based on the received information. The source node transmits the selected common routing protocol to all the nodes in the network.